

# Health Framework for California Public Schools

## Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

**T**he California Department of Education is pleased to announce that the new *Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve*, adopted by the State Board of Education, is now available for purchase.

The *Health Framework* emphasizes health literacy for students—the capacity to obtain, interpret, and understand basic health information and services and the competence to use such information and services in ways that are health-enhancing.

The 2003 edition retains the content of the 1994 framework, identifying the unifying ideas of health literacy and promoting health education through a coordinated school health system and the collaborative efforts of the school, the family, and the community.

This edition contains the following newly developed topics:

- Definitions of terms
- Schools and health
- Positive youth development, asset development, and resiliency
- Use of evaluation and survey data in school health programs
- California's Healthy Start Initiative
- Importance of research-based programs
- Life skills and positive behaviors
- Health education planning and development
- Needs of special populations

- Local advisory or coordinating councils
- Health services in schools
- Mental health issues in schools
- The California public mental health system and schools
- Safe schools and violence prevention
- Suicide prevention

This edition also contains a Grade-Level Emphases Chart, which suggests specific topics to be emphasized in each grade.

Good health, by definition, requires lifelong learning. A better life for students begins with teaching them from an early age how to be physically and mentally healthy.



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California Department of Education  
Sacramento, 2003